

The Sealanche

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where broods of partridges are following their mother in search of food, as tame as chickens. Now, it was as easy for the settler to subsist in this Indiana forest, as it would be for one of the hunters to live in a large park, if he could shoot as much game as he liked. Thomas Lincoln, therefore, took such as he was, destitute of ambition either for himself or his children, took life very easily, and any one acquainted with the family would have foretold for Abraham no greater destiny than that of a squatter on the frontier, or a flat-boat hand on one of the rivers.

A terrible and mysterious epidemic swept over that country, called the milk-disease, one of the numerous maladies caused by the settlers' total disregard of sanitary conditions. One of the victims was Nancy Lincoln, the wife of Thomas and mother of Abraham. The husband, who had been her only nurse and only physician, was now her undertaker, also. He sawed and hammered some green boards into a long box. The few neighbors, about twenty in all, carried and followed the remains to a little eminence half a mile away, and they buried her in the virgin soil of the wilderness. There was no ceremony performed at her funeral, because there was no one competent to perform it. Some months after, when a roving preacher came along, Thomas Lincoln induced him to preach a funeral sermon for his wife, and thus his omission was made good.

Thirteen months passed. The widow, who was not disposed to be both father and mother, started for his native Kentucky in quest of a wife, and there he found Sally Bush, who had once rejected his suit, and had married his rival Johnstone and was now a widow with three children. He called upon her and proposed without hesitating about the bush.

"Well, Mrs. Johnstone," said Thomas, "I have no wife and you no husband. I came to propose to marry you. I know you from a girl and you know me from a boy. I have no time to lose, and if you are willing, let it be done straight off."

"Tommy," said she, "I know you well, and have no objections to marrying you; but I cannot do it straight off, as I owe some debts that must be paid first."

The ceremony was performed the next morning, the debts having been paid in the meantime, and very speedily the married pair and all the goods that the widow possessed were placed upon a wagon and drawn by four horses on a journey of some days. Thomas Lincoln's cabin in Indiana. These goods were of considerable value. There was a bureau that cost \$40, and which Thomas considered infinitely magnificent, and urged her to sell it. But she was no Lincoln, and she refused to do this. There was a table, a set of chairs, a large chest, some cooking utensils, knives and forks, bedding and other articles essential to civilized living.

Abraham Lincoln never forgot the wonder and delight with which he beheld the arrival and unpacking of this wagon load of unimaginable treasure. Neither he nor his sister had ever heard of such things. The mother, on her part, was woefully disappointed at seeing the wretched cabin in which she was to pass her days, for it seems that Thomas Lincoln had drawn on his imagination in describing his abode; and, indeed, the rude hovel was a great advance upon the half-inhabited wigwam in which he had lived during his first year's residence in the wilderness.

Sally Bush, unlabeled as she was, had in her some of the best qualities of a civilized being. She was a natural enemy of chaos and all disorder. She was a woman of high principle, genuine intelligence and good sense. She, therefore, accepted the smallest lot to which Thomas Lincoln had brought her and at once set about making the best of it.

She made her little husband put a floor in the cabin, then windows and doors, welcome appendages in that cold month of December. She made up warm beds for the children, now three in number by the addition of her first. The little Lincoln, even in that wintry season, were half-naked, and she clothed them from fabrics saved from her own wardrobe. They never had been used to cleanliness; she washed them, and taught them how to wash themselves. They had been treated to hardness; she opened her heart to them, treated them as she did her own children, and made them feel that they had a mother. Moreover, she had a talent, not merely for industry, but for making the most of everything. She was a good economist, a good manager, very neat in her own person, orderly and regular in her housekeeping. The whole aspect of the home, within and without, was changed; even the land was better cultivated, and Thomas Lincoln was a somewhat less dilatory provider.

Happily, too, she took a particular liking to Abe, then 9 years old, utterly ignorant, wholly untrained, but good-natured and affectionate. He became warmly attached to her, and as she often said, never once disobeyed her or gave her a disrespectful reply. She had him nicely dressed in new clothes from head to foot, and it appeared to make a new boy of him. Being now decently clad he could attend school, which he had never previously done, and very soon he showed those indications of intelligence which led to his entering the profession of the law. Sometimes the boy had to walk four miles and a half to school, and when he reached it, the instruction given was not of a very high quality. Every winter,

however, added something to his knowledge and widened his views.

His gratitude to this excellent woman was pleasing to witness. He used to speak of her as his "saintly mother," of his "angel of a mother," of "the woman who first made him feel like a human being," who taught him that there was something else for him in the world besides blows, ridicule and shame. After his father's death he paid a mortgage on the farm, assisted her children, and sent her money as long as he lived.

After he was elected to the Presidency and before he started to Washington, he paid her a visit. She was then very old and infirm, and he marked the change in her appearance. She had been a very tall woman, straight as an Indian, handsome, sprightly, talkative, with beautiful hair that curled naturally; she was now bent and worn with labor and sorrow, and he bade her farewell, with a presentiment that he would see her no more. She, too, was oppressed with a vague fear of the future.

When Mr. Herndon, the law partner of Mr. Lincoln, visited her after the assassination of the President, she was not able to speak to him without tears.

"Abe," said she, "was a good boy, and I can say what scarcely one woman in a thousand can say: Abe never gave me a cross word or look, and never refused in fact or appearance to do anything I requested of him. His mind and mine, what little I had, seemed to run together. I had a son, John, who was married with Abe. Both were good boys; but I must say both were being dead, that Abe was the best boy I ever saw. I did not want Abe to run for President; did not want him elected; was afraid somehow; and when he came down to see me after he was elected, I still felt that something would befall him, and that I should be him no more."

She died soon after, and lies buried in an obscure grave, while the son whom she reared from ignorance, ignorance and degradation, has a monument which pierces the skies. The much-maligned sisterhood of step-mothers might well combine to place a memorial for her tomb. —James Parton.

TOPNOODY.

Mr. Topnoody was in a reflective mood Wednesday evening, just about prayer meeting time, and he said to his wife, who was sitting by the window, apparently watching the lightning-bugs wink.

"My dear, what are you thinking of?"

The past, I presume, with its glints of sunshine and its bands of shadow. It is pleasant, indeed, to think that the light and shade of the past are so combined as to make the present a symphony of mellow tint."

"You are mistaken, Topnoody, I was looking at that fence out there, and wondering when you were going to nail that paling on and straighten it up till it looked respectable."

"My dear," he continued, not heeding her remark, "in your retrospect does it occur to you to think whether, if it were to do over again, you would pledge your troth and surrender your young heart to the hands of a husband?"

"At times, Topnoody, such a thought has at times come to me."

"And, my dear, what was the complexion of your thought? Was it that you would do so again?"

"Yes, Topnoody, notwithstanding all the burdens I have carried, notwithstanding the crosses I have borne, notwithstanding the trials and troubles I have been called on to experience, I felt that I would pledge my troth and surrender my young heart to the hands of a husband."

"It does my soul good, my dear, to hear those words."

"But, Topnoody, there is one condition accompanying such a thought always."

"And what is that condition, my love?"

"It is, that the hands of the husband asking the troth and the surrender, and so forth, being to some other man than a Topnoody. Smith, Jones, or Brown. I don't particular which, so long as he'd nail that paling on and fix up the fence to look respectable."

Topnoody continued his reflections in silence. —Merckau-Traveller.

STILL TOO YOUNG.

"Father," he asked with boyish simplicity, "were you ever loved?"

"Loaded? What on earth do you mean?"

"Why, you must have been loaded at some time or other, I guess, or else how could you have unloaded?"

"Boy, come here! Now, what is it?"

"Why, I heard some men talking about you to-day. One of 'em said you was rich, and the other said you made your start by unloading a lot of something or other on somebody he knew."

"He did, eh?"

"Yes; and I wanted to ask you what you was loaded with, so as to see if it filled him some."

"If I met the scoundrel who has traduced me I'll make it hot for him, and you can run up-stairs now. You aren't old enough to understand things yet."

"That's what one of the men said when the other told him you ought to be behind the bars." —Wall Street News.

It has been found by the Churchmen to be historically true that the Puritans in Cromwell's time gave to a child the name, "If Christ had not died for thee thou hadst been damned - Barabarae." He became a member of Parliament, and all his names were dropped except the last; but he was familiarly known as "Damned Barabarae."

A CLOUD OF DEATH.

Rochester, Minn., Partially Destroyed by a Cyclone.

A Third of the City in Ruins and One Hundred Persons Killed or Wounded.

A Train Blown from the Track and the Passengers Killed or Hurt.

A deadly cyclone swept through Olmsted county, Minn., on the 23rd of August, mowing down a storm with such force and velocity that the force of the wind that blew from the track, buildings were destroyed, crops annihilated, and the town of Rochester, the county seat of the county, was wrecked. The loss of life was great, twenty-six people being killed outright, at Rochester alone, while many others were injured so badly as to preclude all hope of recovery. The destruction of life and property is nearly if not quite as great as that occasioned at Grinnell, Iowa, last spring. The following details of the disaster are gathered from the telegraphic reports and the metropolitan press:

Thursday evening at 10 o'clock Rochester was one of the most beautiful cities in the West. Ten minutes later it had been completely destroyed, and in place of the city ruins and a few scattered buildings, there was a vast and level plain. The day had been beautiful and warm, and the atmosphere was oppressive. The clouds were heavy and black, and the wind was blowing from the west. At 10:15 the clouds began to break, and a heavy rain fell. At 10:30 the clouds began to break, and a heavy rain fell. At 10:45 the clouds began to break, and a heavy rain fell. At 11:00 the clouds began to break, and a heavy rain fell. At 11:15 the clouds began to break, and a heavy rain fell. At 11:30 the clouds began to break, and a heavy rain fell. At 11:45 the clouds began to break, and a heavy rain fell. At 12:00 the clouds began to break, and a heavy rain fell. At 12:15 the clouds began to break, and a heavy rain fell. At 12:30 the clouds began to break, and a heavy rain fell. 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